

Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson, Jr., April 14, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ANDREW JACKSON, JR.

Washington, April 14, 1835.

My dear Andrew, On yesterday our dear sarah and sweet little ones left us for Philadelphia under charge of our dear friend Major Lewis, the morning was lowring, but the day fine and I hope the children reached Baltimore without injury from the mornings damp air. We are very loansome now, only Mr Earle Mrs. Donelson and myself and Mrs. D's three small children. I have been quite unwell, and am now suffering with a very sore nose, which effects, and deranges my head, in what it may result, I cannot say, it is now very sore and painfull.

My son, as my life is uncertain, and we know not at what moment we may be called hence, I now address you with the fondness of a fathers heart. I wish to bring to your view the situation you now, and will hereafter occupy, that it may be a stimulant to your proper conduct in all time hereafter. It is well known to all that I have adopted you as my own son and you are to represent me when I am called hence. how carefull then ought you to be to shun all bad company, or to engage in any dissapation whatever, and particularly intoxication which reduces the human being below that of the brute. When I reflect on the fate of your cousin Savern, brought on him by intemperence, from being an honor to his friends, reduced to the contempt of all, by his brutal intemperence, I shuder when I see any appearence of it in any other branch of our connection. Your conduct standing as my representative, the son of the President, draw upon you the eyes of the world, and the least deviation from the rules of strict decorum and propriety are observed and

Library of Congress

commented on by all our enemies, and those who envy you of your situation, added to this, your charming little wife and sweet little ones, respectability in society depends upon your upright course in your walks of life. this my son, ought allways to be before your eyes, and I am sure must be, and your pledge to me on the point of intemperence, assures me that you never will permit spirits to enter your lips again.

You must, *to get thro' life well* , practice industry with oeconomy. never create a debt for any thing that is not absolutely necessary, and when you make a promise to pay money at a day certain, be sure to comply with it, if you do not you lay yourself liable to have your feelings injured and your reputation destroyed with the just imputation of violating your word. Nothing can be more disgraceful, or more injurious to a mans standing in society, than the charge truly made that he has promised to pay money at a day certain, and violating that promise. I therefore repeat, create no debts, our real wants are but few, our immaginary wants many, which never ought to be gratified by creating a debt to supply them. My son, it may be the last time I may address you upon these subjects so essential to your happiness here and hereafter and that of your charming little family. by adhering to this my fatherly advice you secure your happiness here and hereafter, by not adopting them you will destroy your own happiness and that of your family here, and become the scorn of the good and moral portion of society. I conjure you my son to adopt this my admonition, it will lead to your happiness and that of your dear family and your and their respectability.